



Office of Congressional &
Intergovernmental Relations

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WEEKLY RECAP

- Gov't Funding** On February 14th, Congress passed an appropriations package to fund the government through September 30th.
- Nominations** On Thursday, February 14th, Majority Leader McConnell filed Cloture on the nomination of Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler to be Administrator for the EPA.
- This week Acting Administrator Wheeler spoke with Senators Gardner, Cotton, Lankford, Cassidy, Hawley, Cruz, Inhofe, Toomey, Kennedy, and Lee regarding his nomination.
- Hearings** On Wednesday, February 13th, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a business meeting and hearing entitled *The Invasive Species Threat: Protecting Wildlife, Public Health, and Infrastructure*. There were no federal witnesses.
- The House Natural Resources Committee held three subcommittee hearings on February 12th and 13th related to Climate Change; 1) Climate Change and Public Lands ([[HYPERLINK "https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/climate-change-and-public-lands-examining-impacts-and-considering-adaptation-opportunities-"](https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/climate-change-and-public-lands-examining-impacts-and-considering-adaptation-opportunities-)]) 2) Climate Change: Preparing for the Energy Transition ([[HYPERLINK "https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/climate-change-preparing-for-the-energy-transition"](https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/climate-change-preparing-for-the-energy-transition)]) and, 3) The Impacts of Climate Change on Tribal Communities ([[HYPERLINK "https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/the-impacts-of-climate-change-on-tribal-communities"](https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/the-impacts-of-climate-change-on-tribal-communities)]).
- Green New Deal** On Tuesday, February 12th, Majority Leader McConnell announced his intention to hold a vote in the Senate for the resolution (S. Res. 59), which is led by Senator Merkley in the Senate and Representative Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14) in the House. The resolution is not expected to receive enough support to pass the Senate.
- Briefings** On Wednesday, February 13th, AA Dave Ross held briefing calls with staff from the House and Senate and local and state governments in advance of the PFAS Action Plan release.
- Meetings** RA Cosmo Servidio held courtesy meetings with Senators Van Hollen and Cardin and Representative Meuser (R-PA) on Tuesday, February 12th.



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Anna Wildeman, OW PDAA & OCIR staff met with the Florida League of Cities to discuss water and nutrient issues in Florida on Tuesday, February 12th.

OW and OCIR co-hosted a briefing for the Big 10 intergovernmental associations and other professional groups on the revised definition of Waters of the United States on Tuesday, February 12th.

AA Ross met with E&C Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR), Environment Subcommittee Ranking Member Shimkus (R-IL), Energy subcommittee Ranking Member Upton (R-MI) and Rep. Hudson (R-NC) to discuss PFAS on Wednesday, February 13th.

OW and OCIR staff will meet with representatives from San Luis Obispo County, CA to discuss ongoing negotiations between the county and the US ACE regarding potential ownership transfer of the Salinas Dam on Wednesday, February 13th.

LOOK-A-HEAD

Feb. 15 The House and Senate are in recess.

STORIES OF INTEREST

CONGRESS:

- Schumer fumes over McConnell plan to bring Green New Deal to vote, calls it 'cynical ploy' [[HYPERLINK "https://www.foxnews.com/politics/schumer-fumes-over-mcconnell-plan-to-bring-green-new-deal-to-vote-calls-it-cynical-plot"](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/schumer-fumes-over-mcconnell-plan-to-bring-green-new-deal-to-vote-calls-it-cynical-plot)]
- WHEELER IS MORE THAN QUALIFIED TO LEAD EPA. CONFIRM HIM NOW! [[HYPERLINK "https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/wheeler-is-more-than-qualified-to-lead-epa-confirm-him-now"](https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/wheeler-is-more-than-qualified-to-lead-epa-confirm-him-now)]